

of epicotyl and plumule as synonyms (p. 112), though on page 122 the plumule is described as composed of leaves.

The volume is one of the best-illustrated books that has appeared for some time, and the omission of half-tones from the illustrations has obvious advantages. Some of the figures will undoubtedly become classical, and supplant the well-worn ones "made in Germany."

We believe that the author's plan of introducing the student to botany by a study of spermatophytes, with which he is more or less familiar, has much to commend it, both theoretically and practically, over the plan of beginning with unicellular plants. The book will undoubtedly materially assist the pupil in getting the most out of his lectures and laboratory exercises.

C. STUART GAGER.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

DECEMBER 10, 1907

The regular meeting of the Club was held at the American Museum of Natural History at 8:30 P. M., with President Rusby in the chair; fourteen persons were present. In the absence of the secretary, Mr. Charles L. Pollard was appointed acting secretary.

The chairman stated, on behalf of the committee appointed to arrange a memorial meeting in honor of Professor Underwood, that the committee had the matter in hand and would be prepared to report at an early date.

A letter was read from Mr. C. F. Cox, elected at the last meeting of the Club to serve as its representative on the Council of the New York Academy of Sciences, in which he stated that owing to the fact of his nomination to the presidency of the Academy it would be advisable for the club to elect another representative in his place. Dr. Marshall A. Howe and Mr. Charles L. Pollard were nominated. The chairman stated that Dr. Howe was absent from the country, and that it was consequently uncertain whether he would be prepared to serve. The nomination of Dr. Howe was then withdrawn and Mr. Pollard was unanimously elected as the representative of the Club on the Council of the Academy.

A letter was read from Professor E. O. Hovey, recording secretary of the Academy, asking the attention of the club to a resolution of the Academy in which the affiliated societies are invited to recommend suitable lectures to be given under the auspices of, and at the expense of the Academy. Dr. Southwick moved that President Rusby be invited, on behalf of the Club, to deliver a lecture under the conditions suggested, and that notice of this be sent to the recording secretary of the Academy. The motion was put by the acting secretary and unanimously adopted. In thanking the Club for the honor Dr. Rusby referred to the interest now displayed in the matter of the purity of commercial drugs in connection with the Pure Food Law, and stated that the proposed lecture, if given, would be upon this topic.

The following scientific program was presented :

“Dictionaries and their Relation to Biology,” by Charles Louis Pollard.

The speaker referred to the fact that a large part of the increment in our language in recent years has consisted of scientific terms, including new Latin classificatory names, biological descriptive words and phrases, and vernacular names. In spite of this there is a very general lack of interest among working scientists in the average dictionary, and it is not the indispensable reference book that it should be. The reasons for this are to be sought in the attitude of the publishers toward the style of definitions, the effort to avoid undue technicality often resulting in scientific inaccuracy. Obsolete words and meanings are frequently given too great prominence and are not properly differentiated from those in current usage. There is also a tendency to magnify the importance of so-called popular names, many of which are coined by the writers of manuals and are not used elsewhere.

The general discussion which followed brought out the fact that the dictionary, in spite of its defects, contains much information difficult to obtain from other sources, but that it is very generally at variance with usage among botanists in the matter of pronunciation.

“Notes on the Pine-barrens of Long Island,” by Roland M. Harper :

The flora of the pine-barrens of Long Island has received little attention from botanists, chiefly because it consists of comparatively few and widely distributed species. A list of 46 Long Island pine-barren plants was published by Dr. Britton in 1880, and copied by at least three subsequent writers, but even yet the aspects of the vegetation have scarcely been described, or any photographs of it published in botanical literature.

The pine-barrens are confined chiefly to the southern half of Suffolk County, and are very well developed in the uninhabited portions of the towns of Babylon and Islip. The area covered by them is very flat, with a soil of coarse sandy loam. The vegetation is of two types, that of the dry pine-barrens and that of the swamps, the former being by far the most extensive. In the dry pine-barrens the trees are nearly all *Pinus rigida*, and there is a dense undergrowth consisting mostly of *Quercus ilicifolia* and *Q. prinoides*, two to six feet tall. The commonest herbs are *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Ionactis*, *Cracca*, *Baptisia*, *Dasystema*, etc. The effects of fire are everywhere visible.

In the swamps the flora is somewhat richer than in the dry pine-barrens. *Acer rubrum*, *Nyssa*, *Clethra*, *Alnus*, *Myrica*, *Ilex*, *Osmunda*, and *Dulichium* are characteristic. Ericaceae and allied families are well represented.

Nearly all the species in these pine-barrens are quite widely distributed in the glaciated region, or on the coastal plain, or both. Many also occur in the mountains, from New Jersey to Georgia. The vegetation is very similar to that of some parts of the pine-barrens of New Jersey, from all accounts, but the flora is considerably less diversified.

The paper was illustrated by photographs, and will be published in the January (1908) number of *Torreyia*.

The club adjourned at 10 o'clock.

CHARLES LOUIS POLLARD,
Secretary pro tem.

JANUARY 14, 1908

The first stated meeting for 1908 was held at the American Museum of Natural History at 8:15 P. M. Vice-President

Edward S. Burgess occupied the chair. The attendance was fourteen.

After the reading and approval of the minutes for December, 1907, the following names were presented for membership :

Professor William L. Bray, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y.

Mr. Frank Dunn Kern, Agric. Exp. Station, Lafayette, Ind.

This being the annual business meeting of the Club, the chairman called for the reports of officers for 1907. Reports of the secretary, treasurer, editor, and corresponding secretary were read, accepted, and placed on file.

The secretary reported that fourteen regular meetings had been held during the year with a total attendance of 306, as against 219 in 1906, and an average attendance of 21.8, as against 16.8 last year. A total of 37 formal papers was presented before the club, distributed according to subject-matter as follows: taxonomy, 5; physiology, 6; morphology, 4; ecology, 7; regional botany, 5; exploration, 2; lantern lectures, 4; miscellaneous, 4. In addition to these were numerous informal notes and exhibitions of specimens.

The editor reported the publication of one number of the *Memoirs*, of 47 pages, and the issuance of the *Bulletin* and of *Torreya* as usual. The need of an adequate index to the *Bulletin* from volume one to thirty, inclusive, was strongly emphasized.

On behalf of the committee on the local flora, the chairman, Dr. Britton, urged the need of increased activity, and emphasized the desirability of preparing a special work on the flora of New York City and vicinity. At present no such work exists.

Resignations from membership from Mr. Percy L. Ricker and Miss Bina Seymour were read and accepted.

The secretary was instructed to cast the ballot of the Club electing to active membership the persons proposed as above.

Election of officers for the year 1908 resulted in the election of the following ticket :

President : Henry Hurd Rusby.

Vice-Presidents : Edward Sandford Burgess and John Hendley Barnhart.

Secretary: C. Stuart Gager.

Treasurer: William Mansfield.

Editor: Marshall Avery Howe.

Corresponding secretary: On motion the election of a corresponding secretary was indefinitely postponed.

Associate editors: John Hendley Barnhart, Jean Broadhurst, Philip Dowell, Alexander William Evans, Tracy Elliot Hazen, William Alphonso Murrill, Charles Louis Pollard, and Herbert Maule Richards.

The chairman appointed Dr. Small and Dr. Gager as auditing committee.

After an informal discussion of the personnel of the committees to be appointed for the ensuing year, the club, on motion, adjourned at ten o'clock.

C. STUART GAGER,
Secretary.

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. Raymond H. Pond, who sailed for Europe early in November, is studying in the laboratory of Professor Ludwig Jost in Bonn.

Mr. A. P. Morgan, well known as a collector and student of the fungi, died at his home in Preston, Ohio, on October 19, 1907.

Dr. William A. Murrill, for the past two years first assistant of the staff of the New York Botanical Garden, has been advanced to the rank of assistant director of that institution.

Professor Edward S. Burgess, vice-president of the Torrey Botanical Club, has been acting president of the Normal College of the City of New York since the death of Acting-President Gillet.

Dr. Hermann Graf zu Solms-Laubach, editor of the *Botanische Zeitung*, has retired from the professorship of botany at the University of Strassburg. He will be succeeded by Dr. Ludwig Jost of the Royal Agricultural Academy at Bonn.

Dr. W. A. Kellerman, professor of botany in the Ohio State University, is now on his fourth winter expedition to Guatemala,